

## WOMEN IN THE LASALLIAN FAMILY: MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER AS LEAVEN FOR TRANSFORMATION

The *Centro Internazionale Lasalliano* (CIL) Program “Women in the Lasallian Family: Moving Forward Together as Leaven for Transformation” took place from 17 to 28 April 2023 in Rome, Italy. In attendance were Brothers, Sisters and lay partners from all over the Lasallian world. During the two-week program “we made dough, let the bread rise, baked it and brought it back to the people in our society.”

All the sessions and topics were very informative, rich, inspiring, and full of learning. Every discussion and sharing in the language groups were amazing. I gained a lot of new knowledge and ways to carry out the mission in different fields. The daily mass with Brother’s community as well as our morning and evening prayers with our own language groups strengthened our spirituality. Social gatherings on the alternative days made us closer to one another, show our talents, and energized us to move forward. I am very much appreciative to the organizing team who gave the time, spirit and full energy for this program.

On the first day of the program, we had to take some flour from a small bowl and add it into a bigger bowl, which meant adding our own talents into a bigger mission for transformation. I had an amazing experience and it made me reflect on my commitments and invited me to see and hear the different stories of people who are carrying the same mission and chrism around the world in many different ways.

The CIL Program is an eye-opening program, letting us see the valuable work of the Lasallian women who carry out a bigger mission. I have met some leaders and promoters who are committed to our Lasallian mission. We were invited to be a voice for the women and girls who are silent and live under oppression and injustice. **(Text & Photos provided by Ms. Christine Soe Hlaing)**



Left: Attendees of CIL; Right: Delegates from PARC

## LEAD ONLINE COMMUNITY 10 FRATERNAL CARE SERIES: “LIVING OUR COMMUNITY SPIRIT. UNIVERSAL ASPIRATION TOWARDS FRATERNITY AND SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP (FRATELLI TUTTI ENCYCLICAL)”

Franciscan Friar Derrick Yap, last 12 May 2023, facilitated and invited us to reflect on the theme of our Lasallian core value of Community. The invitation was to follow the example of St. Francis of Assisi to build a better future for all by building bridges of kindness.

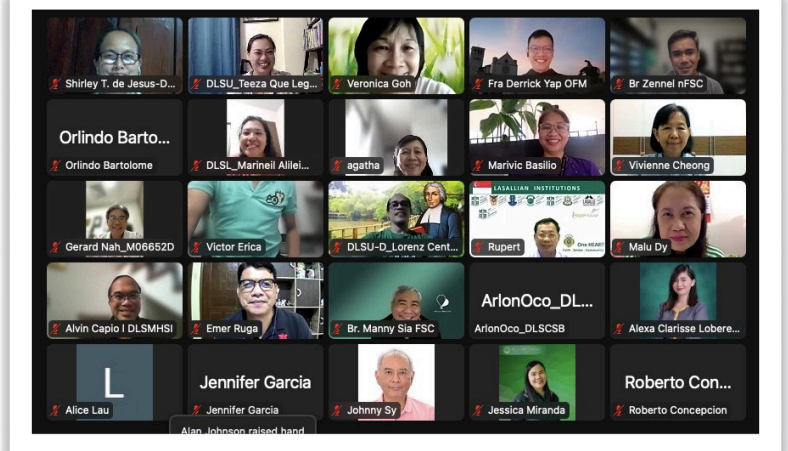
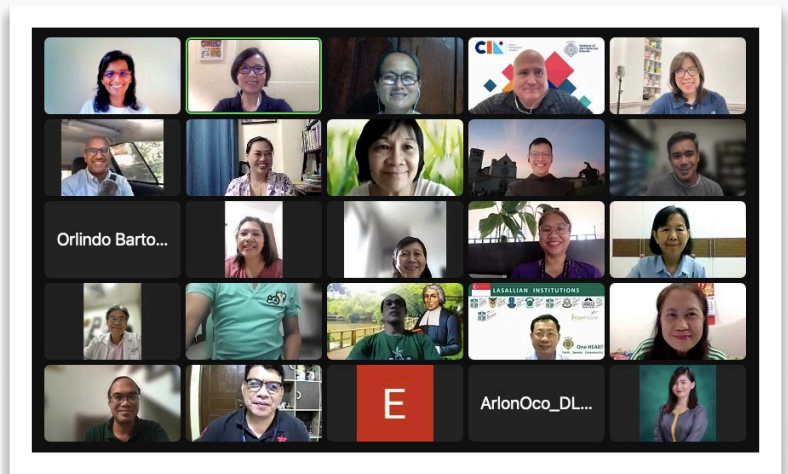
Although we live in a world of hyper-connectivity, we remain disengaged and build walls around ourselves.

So how do I accept and care for my brother and sister in today’s fragmented world?

Some suggestions offered by Friar Derrick:

1. Build a Culture of Fraternal Dialogue: True fraternal dialogue is when we listen and learn from each other.
2. Be humble: Only through humility can we be brothers and sisters to all.
3. Look beyond ourselves and our particular interests.
4. Go beyond manufactured barriers and walls that exclude and do not encourage fraternal dialogue.
5. Open our hearts through contemplation and compassion, see as God sees, and love as God loves us.
6. Cultivate a process of encounter. Be instruments of encounter.

Finally, Friar Derrick emphasized and thanked Lasallian educators for their role in building bridges that nurture fraternity and social friendship. **(Text & Photos provided by Br. Antonio Cubillas FSC)**



## AFFILIATION CEREMONY OF MR. LESTER HUANG AND MR. PAUL TAM

**HONG KONG** - On 13 May 2023 the managers of our eight Lasallian schools came together for a morning of professional development. The first part of the morning consisted of presentations by officials from the Education Bureau while the second part was a Lasallian formation segment delivered by Brother JJ, our LEAD Visitor.

Advantage was taken of the occasion to hold a rare ceremony, namely the affiliation to the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools of two members of our Lasallian Family. They are Mr. Paul Tam and Mr. Lester Huang. Affiliation assures the recipients of the spiritual fruits obtained through the Brothers and Lasallian Family and is the highest mark of recognition and appreciation of the Institute. Affiliated members may use the title AFSC.





*Br. Paul Tam AFSC*



*Br. Lester Huang AFSC*

Paul spent almost all his teaching career in St Joseph's Primary School, where he rose to the rank of Discipline Master and Vice Principal. As such, he was a staunch believer in the Lasallian way of being firm but kind and also a firm believer in prevention being better than cure. In retirement he became the Secretary to the Lasallian Family in Hong Kong and also our Archivist. He is untiring in his service.

Lester is an old boy of La Salle College and, after university studies, rose to an elevated position in Hong Kong as a partner in a well-known law firm. For the last forty years he has given his legal services to the Brothers and the Lasallian Family. He has done so cheerfully and freely, a magnificent record. Lester is also a founding member of the Hong Kong Lasallian Education Council.

The presentation of the letters of affiliation was fittingly done by Brother JJ, our Brother Visitor. All present were well pleased that they had the opportunity to witness this special event and the new affiliates were heartily applauded. **(Text & Photos provided by Mr. Paul Tam)**

## PHILIPPINE LASALLIAN FAMILY CONVOCATION 2023

**PHILIPPINES** - The Philippine Lasallian Family Convocation (PLFC) 2023 took place on 13 to 15 May 2023 at La Salle Green Hills and De La Salle University Laguna Campus.

Anchored on the theme “VITA: Vitality, Identity, Transformation, and Association - Paving New Paths for Transformation,” PLFC 2023 emphasizes the Philippine Lasallian Family’s goal to “to build new and difficult roads with determination and enthusiasm” and to set new directions and vision for the next four years for the De La Salle Philippines network.



Day 1 of PLFC 2023 was filled with lively conversations. In the morning, the delegates listened to a panel discussion with Br. Dodo Fernandez FSC (DLSP, PAASCU), Mr. Cesar Consing (NMC, Ayala Group of Companies), Sr. Marisa Siri, RVM (CEAP), Ms. Doris Ferrer (PEAC), and Dr. Karol Mark Yes (EDCOM2). They recognized the challenges faced by the Philippine education sector—particularly private Catholic schools. Mr. Consing compared it to a “burning platform.” The advent of new technologies being just one of the emerging issues that we have to manage, while discussions on inclusivity reminded the delegates of the call to be leaven for a more fraternal world. Although there are already efforts to mitigate these challenges coming from the government, there are still more that can be done. Among others, we have to invest in research, we have to innovate and make our schools more sustainable, we must equip our graduates with the proper skills to excel in the workforce. As Dr. Yee puts it, Lasallians should embrace our leadership in the Philippine education sector. Br. Dodo challenged us to be bold, be ambitious, and dream as much for those entrusted to our care.

The sessions during the afternoon of Day 1 and the morning of Day 2 focused on refining the PLFC 2023 Resolutions. This is a product of months of dialogue at the school and regional cluster levels. A Listening & Writing Committee was convened to consolidate about 60 proposals from the Regional Cluster Reflections and the Join Councils Workshop down to nine (9) Resolutions. In the thematic groups, the delegates affirmed and shared possible changes to the resolutions. After three rounds of presentations, comments, and revisions, the PLFC 2023 delegates ratified ten (10) Resolutions.

The Philippine Lasallian Family Convocation 2023 concluded with a thanksgiving mass on the Solemnity of St. John Baptist de La Salle, Patron Saint of Teachers (15 May), at Santuario de La Salle. Most Rev. Charles John Brown, D.D., Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, presided over the Eucharistic Celebration. **(Photos from the De La Salle Philippines Facebook page)**



## FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

**HONG KONG** - Various schools in the Hong Kong Lasallian Family held Masses in honor of the Feast of St. John Baptist de La Salle. Lasallian Encounters and Sessions were also held in the schools. (Photos from Hong Kong De La Salle Brothers Vocations Facebook page)



## FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

**JAPAN** - At Hakodate La Salle, on the first period of 13 May (Saturday), the "Gathering of St. La Salle's Day" was held for the first time in three years with combined middle and high school students. On this day, commendation for long-term service was given to eight faculty members who have reached 30, 20, and 10 years of service under the protection of St. La Salle. **(Text & Photos from La Salle Japan Facebook page)**



## FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

**THAILAND** - Thanksgiving Masses and ceremonies were held to commemorate the Solemnity of St. John Baptist De La Salle, Patron Saint of Teachers, in La Salle Chanthaburi (Mandapitak) and La Salle School in Nakhonsawan last 22 and 25 May 2023, respectively. (Photos from De La Salle Brothers - Thailand Facebook page)



*Thanksgiving Mass at La Salle Chanthaburi (Mandapitak)*



*Commemorative ceremony at La Salle School, Nakhonsawan*